

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-04 AID-05 EUR-08

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W

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R 310925Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4385

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 6231

ISLAMABAD FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJ: GROWING PUBLIC PESSIMISM OVER PROSPECTS OF WAR

1. RECENT PORI POLLS INDICATE UPWARD SWING IN PUBLIC
PESSIMISM OVER PROSPECTS OF WAR IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. IN MAY 1974, WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT PROSPECTS OF WAR WITH
EGYPT, 41.2 PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS BELIEVED WAR WOULD BREAK
OUT IN NEAR FUTURE, 34.1 PERCENT DID NOT SEE LIKEIHOOD OF WAR,
AND 24.7 PERCENT HAD NO OPINION.

3. IN EARLY OCTOBER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT PROSPECT OF WAR IN NEAR
FUTURE WITH ARAB STATES, 54.7 PERCENT THOUGHT THAT WAR WOULD
BEGIN IN NEAR FUTURE, WHILE ANOTHER 13.6 PERCENT SAW THE
PROSPECTS OF WAR UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS (SUCH AS CREDIBILITY
OF IDF'S DETERRENT CAPACITY, POSITIONS OF THE SUPERPOWERS, GOI
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STAND ON RETURN OF TERRITORIES, ETC); 19.5 PERCENT DID NOT

BELIEVE WAR WOULD BREAK OUT AND REMAINING 12.2 PERCENT HAD NO OPINION.

4. COMMENT. WHILE MAY POLL QUESTIONED ONLY ABOUT PROSPECTS OF WAR WITH EGYPT, OCTOBER POLL REFERRED TO WAR WITH ARAB STATES. CONCERN OVER SYRIA DURING PAST MONTHS MAY HAVE AFFECTED RESULTS. OCTOBER POLL ALSO MOST LIKELY INFLUENCED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH POINT TO COMPLEX OBSTACLES IN ACHIEVING SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN AND LINKAGE OF JORDANIAN SETTLEMENT TO EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN SETTLEMENTS. DESPITE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT QUESTIONS, RESULTS OF POLL CONDUCTED BY PORI, WHICH IS GENERALLY REGARDED AS ONE OF BETTER PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY FIRMS IN ISRAEL, GENERALLY COINCIDES WITH VIEWS WE HEAR FROM OUR ISRAELI CONTACTS. HAD POLL BEEN TAKEN AFTER RABAT CONFERENCE, PESSIMISM OVER PEACE PROSPECTS IN MIDDLE EAST WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE BEEN GREATER.
KEATING

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Message Attributes

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